

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB2005/051145

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N1/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 1 445 061 A (BECKMAN INSTRUMENTS INC) 4 August 1976 (1976-08-04) page 2, line 11 - line 39 figures 1,3,4	1-17
X	US 4 336 722 A (SCHWEITZER ET AL) 29 June 1982 (1982-06-29) column 3, line 45 - line 65 column 4, line 49 - column 5, line 23 figure 1	1,11
X	DE 44 30 378 A1 (ERWIN SICK GMBH OPTIK-ELEKTRONIK, 79183 WALDKIRCH, DE) 29 February 1996 (1996-02-29) column 3, line 30 - line 52 figure 1	1,11

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 July 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

29/07/2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	CA 2 196 846 A1 (GOODFELLOW TECHNOLOGIES INC) 5 August 1998 (1998-08-05) figures 1-7	1-17
A	US 3 938 390 A (GREY ET AL) 17 February 1976 (1976-02-17) figure 2	1-17
A	EP 0 429 143 A (PROJECT RESEARCH AMSTERDAM B.V) 29 May 1991 (1991-05-29) the whole document	1-17
A	US 3 960 500 A (ROSS ET AL) 1 June 1976 (1976-06-01) the whole document	1-17

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